



# FOCUS

For Members & Friends of Dale Heights Presbyterian Church

December 2010

## *Pastor Marilyn's Monthly Musings*

As I'm writing this month's *Musings* – before Thanksgiving – I'm feeling kind of caught between two worlds, really between two holidays. In one ear I'm hearing "Come Ye Thankful People Come" and in the other I'm hearing "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful." Of course, the reason for this is that while I'm writing this it's still before Thanksgiving, but in our larger culture, especially its retail side, the countdown of shopping days till Christmas is already well underway.

What I'm experiencing – being caught between two holidays or worlds – is not unlike the reflections of the Advent season in the church, never mind the different and often competing emphases of this countdown to Christmas between the church and our culture.

Here in the church, on the one hand, we're preparing to celebrate an event that's already happened – the coming of our Messiah with Jesus' birth – trying to keep the blinders on that it's already happened so we can celebrate it as a new thing on Christmas. On the other hand, we're preparing to welcome Jesus' second advent, his second coming, the time when he'll return to judge humanity for God's grace. And if trying to hold those two ideas together weren't confusing and hard enough, we're also to be looking for Jesus' presence in everyone we meet, especially as we share with those who have fewer of earth's resources than we do.

So if you're feeling a little schizophrenic during these holidays, you're not alone. One of the invitations of this Advent season that I'll encourage you to embrace is making some time amid all the stuff and all the busyness to remember and reflect on what God has done in and through the life and ministry of Jesus and his followers down through the ages. In some mysterious way we do not understand, our Creator became human – was incarnate – in Jesus, walking this earth, experiencing human life, seeking to better understand us toward having better relationships with us. And in some mysterious way we do not understand, Jesus taught disciples that when we care for one another, and especially when we care for those whose lives are a struggle, we are caring for him. And in some mysterious way we do not understand, at a time in the unknown future, Jesus will return to judge us for God's grace. And in the meantime from before time, this Jesus has been and continues to be Emmanuel, God-who-is-with-us, never leaving us alone, always sharing all the joys and sorrows of our lives, until he comes again.

Happy Advent! Merry Christmas! And see you in church as we learn about the culture and Advent and Christmas traditions of the Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland!

Shalom in Christ Jesus, Marilyn

# December Worship Messages

December 5, 2010 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - "Trusting in Advent Present" -  
Matthew 3:1-12 - Communion - Called Congregational Meeting

December 12, 2010 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Children's Christmas Pageant:  
"Christmas Hide and Seek"

December 19, 2010 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - "Waiting for Advent Future" -  
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24, 2010 - Christmas Eve - "Wishing Us Peace" - Luke 2:1-20

December 26, 2010 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas - Lessons and Carols and Bells Service

## Ushers for December

**Dec. 5** Communion Servers  
**Dec. 12** Janice Krall and Rick Shannon  
**Dec. 19** Sandy Weigt and Keith Chan  
**Dec. 24** The Lembcke Family  
**Dec. 26** Tom Jones and Rick Geiger

## Liturgists for December

**Dec. 5** Sandy Weigt  
**Dec. 12** Jennifer Jones  
**Dec. 19** Mike Holland  
**Dec. 24** Wendy Weber  
**Dec. 26** Dick Corey

## Advent Candlelighters

**Dec. 5** Gale Oakes and Dale Buske  
**Dec. 12** Kim Chan and the children  
**Dec. 19** Tom and Janet Jones  
**Dec. 24** Barb Fleishman

## Called Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 5 at 11:00 a.m.

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, December 5 following morning worship for the purpose of electing Elders to serve on Session and to elect congregational representatives to the 2011 Nominating Committee.

## Nursery Available

Children at Dale Heights are always welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in Sunday worship. The nursery is available when parents have a need to take their children out of church for whatever reason, but it is not staffed.

## MOM Pantry Needs for December

**Basic Cooking Needs**  
(flour, sugar, cooking oil, etc.)

## Pastor Marilyn will be on Vacation

**Dec. 25-Jan. 1**

## Christmas Eve Fellowship



Please bring cookies or bars ready to serve on plates for our gathering in the concourse after the evening service.

# Happy Birthday!

December 2	Ruby Meyer
December 13	Vreni Straubhaar
December 18	Jamie Klump (1989)
December 22	Ray Miller
December 25	Dick Corey
December 27	Lois Meyer
December 28	Marian Todd
December 29	Caroline Pope

# Happy Anniversary!

December 16 Otty & Larry Schaefer



CONGRATULATIONS to Carrie Chan Szymanski and her husband, Jason, on the birth of their son, Adrian Jason, born November 17, 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS to Grandma Edi and Grandpa Keith, and Aunt Kim Chan, too!

## Winter Choir News

We are pleased to welcome June Zeeh as the newest member of the Dale Heights choir! Welcome June! We also have 2 new Advent pieces to share with you in December.



## Inquiring Into Membership Conversations

Persons interested in becoming members of Dale Heights are invited to make an appointment with Pastor Marilyn at a mutually convenient time throughout the month.

## Weekly Church School

Our weekly fall Sunday School is underway. The 2-7 year-old class meets from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. in the Sunday School Wing. Join us as we share the stories of our faith as you and your children are able to participate. Meanwhile, the adult class is studying Harold Kushner's *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. See Tom Jones if you would like to order a book. There is no charge. Everyone is welcome!

## Dale Heights Knitters & Crocheters

Our Dale Heights members and friends are gathering Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Come to both learn to knit or crochet, and also to work together on knitting or crocheting projects for mission - such as "healing shawls" and skull caps for soldiers' helmets.

Everyone is welcome to join us in this ministry.

## New Wednesday Lunch & Learn Class

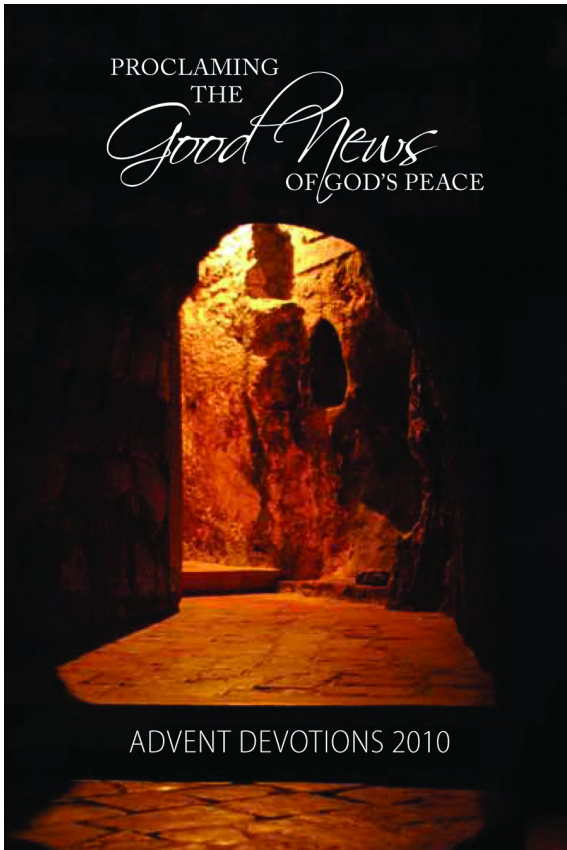
Our Wednesday Lunch & Learn class is now studying for the Advent season: *The Meaning is in the Waiting: The Spirit of Advent* by Paula Gooder.

In this winsome yet provocative Advent devotional, Paula Gooder takes us into the fraught complications of Advent waiting—waiting for Christmas, in a world that starts celebrating it months ahead of time; waiting for Jesus' birth, an event that has already happened; and waiting for the return of Christ, the consummation of God's plan (a drama that some days, we may doubt will ever happen at all, and other days, we may want to forestall as long as possible).

Join us when and as you are able at 11:45 a.m. Wednesdays!

## New Beginnings Monthly LUNCH!

New Beginnings meets for lunch on the third Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 21 at 11:30 at the Olive Garden, 7017 Mineral Point Road.



## Worship and Music Committee

During the Advent season, we will be learning about the culture of Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands. We will be hearing presentations about these countries and their Advent/Christmas traditions each Sunday during this season.

In anticipation of Advent and Christmas, candle lighters have been recruited for December 5, 12, 19, and Christmas Eve.

If you have a nativity set that you would be willing to display in the church concourse on Dec. 12, please let Marcia Holman know so we can have adequate table space available. Please include a note indicating the source or country of origin and why it is special to you.

December 26<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Lessons and Carols service, along with celebrating Bell Sunday! Please bring a bell to ring!

Be sure to pick up your copy of *Proclaiming the Good News of God's Peace* from the Concourse.

## Christmas Pageant

The children's Christmas pageant, titled "Christmas Hide and Seek" will take place during worship on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals will continue to be held from 9:15 to 9:45 on December 5 and 12. Please contact Kim Chan if you are interested in having your child/ren participate, or if you have any questions.

**Lessons and Carols,  
and Bell Sunday,  
December 26**



*Please bring a bell to ring with joy for  
our Savior's birth!*

New Beginnings  
Christmas Brunch/Lunch  
Sunday, December 19 at noon  
Adler's  
8202 Watts Rd, Madison  
Sign-Up Sheet in Concourse



## Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

Although we prefer not to have to cancel worship, sometimes winter weather makes it necessary. So we do have a plan in place for getting the word out if worship is cancelled.

When Pastor Marilyn has to cancel worship, she will do the following: send an email, put a cancellation notice on the website, and change the answering machine by 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning to indicate the cancellation.

If you are at all unsure about whether or not to come to church, please check your e-mail, check the website or call the church. **Above all, play it safe.**



## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The service on "Building the Beloved Community" on November 7 was very inspirational!

The next forum will take place on Saturday, December 4, beginning at 9 a.m. at Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 E. Gorham Street. It will be a joyful kickoff to the holiday season. After welcome and refreshments in Fellowship Hall, the group will move to the Chapel for a wonderful musical program by The Youth Chorale of the Wisconsin Children's Choir. You are all invited!

Fair Trade will have a Holiday Festival at Monona Terrace Saturday, December 4, from 9 am to 4 pm. What a great place to shop!



## MOM News

MOM is looking for volunteers for their Sharing Christmas program. They need volunteers to shop, to wrap, and to help distribute gifts. Please contact Val Hartjes at [val@momhelps.org](mailto:val@momhelps.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

The traditional ChristmasFest dinner will be held at St. Bernard's on Christmas Day from noon till 2pm.



### 2010 Christmas Joy Offering

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

50 percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the General Assembly Council.

## **Session Meeting Highlights – November 30, 2010**

- Due to the publication date for the December *Focus* the November 30 Session Highlights will be published in the January *Focus*

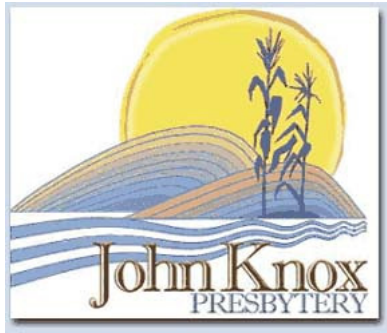
## **Property & Finance Committee Meeting Highlights – November 9, 2010**

- Discussion of sound system and the possible need for a new mike and new mixer.
- Church Financial materials are now ready for the regular audit.
- October 30 workday accomplished objective: taking down one-half of an ailing maple tree.
- New computer is up and running with Windows 7.
- Old copier on its last legs. Request Session approval to spend up to \$800 for a replacement. Price and features comparisons will be made.
- New office printer needed. Funds of \$100-\$150 are already available in the budget.
- Thanks to Sah-lang members for cleaning of the carpets.
- Heat tape for roof sections—computer diagram has been made to figure out layout and project costs.
- Stewardship letters mailed; pledges are beginning to come in.
- Heating: discussed purchasing three new thermostats over the course of three years to ensure energy cost is kept as low as possible. For now, educate users about the sanctuary thermostat and give an early start for the concourse thermostat on Sunday mornings.
- Financial reports received. As of October 31, 2010, year-to-date actual income is \$5463 compared to budgeted net income of \$922.
- Next meeting will be December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

## **Worship and Music Committee Meeting Highlights – November 14, 2010**

- New members Rick Geiger and June Zeeh were welcomed to the committee.
- Learned that the choir has two new pieces for Advent. Maggie has started a You Tube channel to aid choir members in learning new pieces. Tom Jones will substitute for Maggie when she is off on 11/21. Tom and June Zeeh will alternate subbing for her. Harold Meyer and Edi Chan are willing to accompany congregational singing of “Silent Night” on Christmas Eve. Maggie is looking for someone to sing the first and last verses in German.
- Learned that Advent/Christmas/Epiphany preparations include:
  - Brief presentations about Advent and Christmas customs in Europe will be done by Henry Bouman—Holland on Nov. 28, Otty Schaefer—Germany on Dec. 5, Vreni Straubhaar—Switzerland—German part on Dec. 12 and Edi Chan—Switzerland—French part on Dec. 19.
  - Discussed having a cookie making party to make Swiss cookies to be shared during weekly fellowship times and/or a cookie exchange. Needs to be scheduled so treats are ready for Dec. 5.
  - Poinsettia sign up sheet posted in concourse; order to be made to Brandi’s Blooms on Nov. 29 with delivery to church on Sat., Dec. 4.
  - Nativity sets to be displayed in the concourse on Dec. 12. So far 5 people have offered to share their sets.
- Preparations for 2011 include:
  - Race relations Sunday, Sun. Jan. 16—Potluck planned with Muslim speakers after dinner.
  - “Celebrate the Gifts of Women” scheduled for Sun. Feb. 27
  - Committee decided to have the Lent/Easter cultural emphasis focus on Spanish customs. Mardi Gras will be observed again on March 6. Ash Wednesday is March 9.
  - Pastor Marilyn and Maggie Rogers met with pastors and music directors from other Madison Presbyterian churches re: a big joint Good Friday service in 2011. There were no definite decisions about program or music. Possible sites are Covenant or Christ which are the largest churches. Easter is end of April.
- **Pulpit Supply**—Nov. 21—Gwen Brandfass, Chaplain at Oakwood West
- Vreni Straubhaar & Kim Chan reported that communion is scheduled for Dec. 5 and 21.
- Liturgists are scheduled through Dec. People to read the 9 lessons on Dec. 26 are being recruited.
- All the ushers have the new schedules. In the summer, Keith and Kim Chan will recruit choir members to usher.

**NEXT MEETING DATE Jan. 23, 2011**



## John Knox Presbytery Meeting Highlights

Here are some highlights from the November 16 John Knox Presbytery Meeting:

- During worship led by outgoing Moderator Lon Foree received the annual Necrology Report and celebrated the Lord's Supper
- Participated in an Equipping the Saints time led by the Transformation Outfitters
- During the Announcements were advised that due to the complexity and number this year to read and study the three booklet parts of this year's proposed amendments for the Constitution before attending the February Presbytery meeting
- Received the Committee on Ministry report, during which approved and adopted the second reading of a proposed Bylaw change referring to membership of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry; approved having the Stated Clerk request the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois dismiss the Rev. Lisa M. Taylor to JKP (Rev. Taylor became Pastor of First Presbyterian, Baraboo October 1; approved granting the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. Elaine Hanson Hysell effective October 1; approved the examination for ordination of Candidate Hosung Cho to serve as Stated Supply Pastor working with youth for the Korean Presbyterian Church of Madison; concurred with the request of the Rev. Calvin Harfst and Parkside Presbyterian Church, Madison to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective December 1; approved Rev. Harfst's interim pastor call and dismissed him to Homestead Presbytery pending their request to receive his membership; and appointed the Rev. Marilyn Gamm as Moderator for Parkside Presbyterian Church effective December 1
- Received the Committee on Preparation for Ministry report, during approved removing Inquirer James Demerath per his request; approved the Revs. Tim Gerarden and Sandra Nuernberg to read 2011 standard ordination exams; and approved and adopted the second reading of a proposed Bylaw change referring to membership on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- Received the Presbytery Council report, during which re-elected Alyson Janke to serve a three-year term as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery beginning January 1
- Received the Wadena Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission report, approved the recommendation to dissolve the congregation as of December 31, continue the process negotiating disposal of the assets, and participated in a service of sending for the Wadena Presbyterian Church
- Received the Moderator, Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, and Stated Clerk's reports. The Executive Presbyter also reported 37 of the Presbytery's 61 churches participated in one of the "Come and See" events. And during the Stated Clerk's Report read into the minutes the October 9 Synod Permanent Judicial Commission decision in the case "The Session, Caledonia Presbyterian Church, et al. v. John Knox Presbytery" in which the complaint against the Presbytery was not sustained and no relief was granted; approved the report of the Administrative Commission for ordaining Rachel Achtemeier Rhodes August 21; approved an Administrative Commission to ordain Hosung Cho December 12; approved the Report on the Review of Session Records; and approved the Sun Prairie New Church Development learnings report
- Elected all candidates proposed in the Nominating Committee report, including the Rev. Dale Chapin as 2011 Moderator of Presbytery and Edler Bonnie Sue Lewis as 2011 Vice Moderator of Presbytery
- The next meeting will be February 19, 2011 at United Presbyterian Church, Muscoda, WI, during which the Presbytery will vote on numerous proposed amendments to the constitution.



# Read through the Bible in 1 Year!

Each month we are offering daily Bible reading suggestions which when you follow the guideline by this time next year you will have read the entire Bible!

## Some Tips for reading through the Bible:

**READ...the passage for the day, listening closely for what God is saying.**

**EXPLORE...what the Bible has to say by asking questions.**

**ACT...on the truth by finding one thing you can DO.**

**PRAY... the verses you have just read back to God**

### The Story of Jesus

Dec-1 Galatians 1-3

Dec-2 Galatians 4-6

Dec-3 Ephesians 1-3

Dec-4 Ephesians 4-6

Dec-5 Philippians 1-4

Dec-6 Colossians 1-4

Dec-7 I Thessalonians 1-5

Dec-8 II Thessalonians 1-3

Dec-9 I Timothy 1-6

Dec-10 II Timothy 1-4

Dec-11 Titus 1-Philemon 1

### Jesus Finished God's Plan

Dec-12 Hebrews 1-4

Dec-13 Hebrews 5-7

Dec-14 Hebrews 8-10

Dec-15 Hebrews 11-13

Dec-16 James 1-5

Dec-17 I Peter 1-2

Dec-18 I Peter 3-5

Dec-19 II Peter 1-3

Dec-20 I John 1-3

Dec-21 I John 4-5

Dec-22 II John 1-Jude 1



### A Vision for the Church

Dec-23 Revelation 1-2

Dec-24 Revelation 3-5

Dec-25 Revelation 6-8

Dec-26 Revelation 9-11

Dec-27 Revelation 12-13

Dec-28 Revelation 14-16

Dec-29 Revelation 17-18

Dec-30 Revelation 19-20

Dec-31 Revelation 21-22

# December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Lunch & Learn 11:45 am; Choir rehearsal 7:30pm	2 Knit/Crochet Ministry 10 am	3	4
5 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent; Congregational Meeting	6	7 Pastor Marilyn to Pastors' Group 12 Noon	8 Lunch & Learn 11:45 am; Choir rehearsal 7:30pm	9 Pastor Marilyn to COM; Knit/ Crochet Ministry 10 am	10	11 Men's Monthly Breakfast 8 a.m.
12 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent; Christmas Pageant	13	14 Property & Finance 7 p.m.	15 Lunch & Learn 11:45 am; Bosom Buddies; No choir rehearsal	16 Knit/Crochet Ministry 10 am	17	18
19 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	20	21 New Beginnings Lunch 11:30 a.m.	22 NO Lunch & Learn; Choir rehearsal 7:30pm	23 NO Knit/Crochet Ministry	24 Christmas Eve Worship 7 p.m.	25 <b>Merry Christmas!</b>  Pastor Marilyn on Vacation
26 Lessons & Carols Service  Pastor Marilyn on Vacation	27  Pastor Marilyn on Vacation	28  Pastor Marilyn on Vacation	29 NO Lunch & Learn; No choir rehearsal; Pastor Marilyn on Vacation	30  Pastor Marilyn on Vacation	31  Pastor Marilyn on Vacation	

## **Community Activities Held At Dale Heights**

### **Madison Sah-lang (Agape) Church**

We are the nesting site for this evangelical church belonging to Presbyterian Church in America.

### **Furniture Loan for International Students:**

Call Madison Friends of International Students office at 238-1046 for an appointment.

### **Breast Cancer Support Group:**

Third Wednesday of the month, 6:45 p.m. in the lounge.

### **Wisconsin Tibetan Association:**

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. in the lounge.

### **Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts:**

There is a Girl Scouts and a Cub Scouts troops meeting at various times

### **Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association:**

There are various committees meeting at various times

### ***Dale Heights Mission Statement:***

*Our open-minded congregation affirms and celebrates God's gifts of love and grace.  
We seek to share God's love by inviting others to join us in following Jesus  
and by serving those in need in our community and world.*

### ***Dale Heights Presbyterian Church***

*5501 University Ave.*

*Madison, WI 53705 233-0134*

*[dalehghts@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dalehghts@sbcglobal.net)*

*[www.daleheightspc.org](http://www.daleheightspc.org)*

### **Sunday Schedule**

9:00 a.m.

Christian Education

for all ages

September-May

10:00 a.m.

Worship

Child care provided

11:00 a.m.

Fellowship